Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application.

Claims 7-13 stand withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sudbrack et al. alone, or further in view of Lippens et al. '405. It is respectfully submitted that these rejections are in error.

Claim 1, among other structure, requires a baler for making large parallelepiped bales including a baling chamber, a plunger mounted in the baling chamber and coupled to a drive mechanism including a pair of transversely spaced connecting rods each having a center line extending between coupling pins at opposite ends thereof, which centerlines are disposed substantially horizontally when the plunger is fully-extended into the baling chamber and lying approximately within a horizontal plane passing centrally between upper and lower walls of the baling chamber and between a pair of transversely spaced load pin arrangements associated with one of said plunger drive and plunger for sensing the force imposed on the plunger during compacting of charges of crop, and said load pin arrangements each including at least one load pin **offset vertically relative to one of said center line or plane** when the plunger is in its fully-extended position.

Subrack et al. disclose all of the claimed subject matter except for the idea of providing a load pin arrangement including **at least one load pin offset vertically relative to one of said center line or plane**. The Examiner relies on the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 8 for somehow teaching the idea of offsetting at least one load pin, as claimed, but no such teaching is present in this embodiment. What is shown is the usage of a load cell 90, **in lieu of a load pin**, which load cell is disposed **symmetrically** relative to a centerline of the connecting rod 94 and includes strain gauges 194 and 195. The fact that the strain gauges are offset from the centerline is of no moment since they merely reflect what is happening as concerns bending loads in the symmetrical load cell 90.

As concerns Lippens et al., there the load pin 64 is located in a lever 40 that connects the gear box protrusion 44 to the baler frame and senses the reaction force experienced by the gear box as a result of the connecting rod 25 compressing a

charge of crop into the baling chamber. Thus, it is clear that the load pin 64 is not part of the plunger drive nor the plunger.

Thus, it is not seen how the Subrack et al. alone or take together with Lippens et al. would have made the subject matter, as defined in claim 1, obvious. The problem solved by applicant's claimed combination including a load pin is that of being able to use a smaller load pin than would be required if the pin were placed on the centerline of the connecting rod, as is done by Subrack at al.

Since claims 2-6 depend either directly or directly from claim 1, they too are thought allowable, it being noted that the examiner considers these claims to contain allowable subject matter.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

Respectfully,

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